

BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR POLISH WELFARE

Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940

POLISH CHILDREN RESCUE FUND

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1 HILL STREET
LONDON, W.1

A DAY OF PROTEST

AGAINST THE PERSECUTION OF POLISH CHILDREN

News received from Poland tells a tale of increasing horror about the plight of the Polish Children. They are being torn from their parents, crowded into sealed cattle trucks and sent to the Reich. The journey often lasts several days, and no food, water, heating nor amenities of any kind are permitted to the unfortunate children. When the trains reach their destination they contain dead bodies and a few terrified, hungry and miserable little boys and girls.

Children over fourteen years of age are sent to work in Germany, the younger ones are to be Germanised in German families and institutions. Those who are ill or physically unfit are killed at once. There are special camps for "young criminals"—Polish children who have been found to be resisting the oppressor, children who insist upon remaining Poles. They are considered dangerous to young Germans and are therefore put into these camps.

Rations in Poland are below starvation level. Children are dying of hunger in thousands. Clothes are practically unobtainable, fuel cannot be got. Schools, except elementary schools staffed by the Germans, are closed.

The Polish Children Rescue Fund is organising a Day of Protest against the persecution of Polish Children on Sunday, 26th September, 1943. As many signatures as can possibly be got are wanted. The Protest will not be confined to Great Britain; the U.S.A., South America and, we hope, parts of the Empire are taking part also. News of this protest will reach Poland. Last year there was a Protest Day against the persecution of Polish women, and grateful messages were received from Poland, telling of how the sympathy of the people abroad and their appreciation of the Polish women's bravery had helped them in their struggle against the oppressor, and had made them feel that they were not alone.

Now the time has come to protest against the persecution of the Polish children. The civilised world cannot look on unmoved while innocent children are being tortured, murdered and, to the eternal shame of the Germans, depraved. We must protest, and in such a way that our voice will reach the ears of those who perpetrate these horrible crimes.

We wish to obtain signatures, to have meetings throughout the country, to gain the co-operation of as many Churches, Schools, Youth Organisations, Societies as possible. If you are willing to take part in this Day of Protest, and we shall be most grateful for your co-operation, we will send you detailed facts about the situation of the Polish children and later the text of the protest. If you wish for a speaker to address a meeting we will procure one, a Polish speaker if you prefer.

Please write for further details to : Secretary, 1 Hill Street, London, W.1.

N.B. If you require more copies of this circular please let us know.

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